

## CULTIVATING A GENEROUS LIFE

July 27, 2014 Luke 21:1-4 by Bob Branch

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**MAIN IDEA: Real devotion to God moves us into a generous life. We become givers because God is the ultimate giver.**

“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” **2 Corinthians 8:7**

<sup>1</sup> As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth (abundance); but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” **Luke 21:1-4**

### 1. Giving is evidence of real DEVOTION to God.

“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.” **2 Chronicles 16:9 NAS**

“The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.”  
**Martin Luther**

### 2. Giving expresses TRUST in the Lord.

“Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he’s the one who will keep you on track.” **Proverbs 3:5-6 Message**

### 3. Giving is not a matter of how much you have, but how GENEROUS you are with what you have.

“Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don’t have.” **2 Corinthians 8:12 NLT**

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”  
**2 Corinthians 9:11**

### 4. God sees OUR HEARTS in our giving, and is pleased with faithful, sacrificial giving.

“The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” **1 Samuel 16:7**

“You cannot all abandon your possessions, but at least you can change your attitude about them. All getting separates you from others; all giving unites to others.” **St. Francis of Assisi**